



Kathleen Sebelius, Governor
Thomas E. Wright, Chairman
Michael C. Moffet, Commissioner
Joseph F. Harkins, Commissioner

April 2, 2009

The Honorable Gary Locke
Secretary, U.S. Department of Commerce
Office of the Secretary
US Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave, N.W.
Washington, DC 20230

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

The Honorable Anna Gomez
Acting Assistant Secretary, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
Office of the Assistant Secretary, National Telecommunications Information Administration
US Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave, N.W.
Washington, DC 20230

Secretary Vilsack, Secretary Locke, and Assistant Secretary Gomez:

Recently, you received a letter from the National Association of Regulatory Commissioners (NARUC) suggesting that the National Telecommunications Information Administration (NTIA) and Rural Utilities Service (RUS) utilize States to complete the tasks assigned under the "American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009" (ARRA). As a member of the NARUC Telecommunications Committee and in my capacity as a member of the Kansas Corporation Commission, I wanted to inform you that The Kansas Corporation Commission supports the position put forth by NARUC.

The Kansas Corporation Commission believes States are in the best position to evaluate broadband proposals based on knowledge of their demographics, geography, and the communications industry. Kansas is willing and able to aid the NTIA and RUS by reviewing and ranking all applications for all Kansas-specific projects based on criteria developed by the NTIA and RUS. The Kansas Corporation Commission also supports the development of a standard allocation of grant funds to each state. We agree with NARUC's suggestion that States are likely to need additional temporary personnel to help with grant review as well as to audit/monitor and report back to the federal agencies on implementation. The Kansas Corporation Commission supports NARUC's proposal that NTIA and RUS allow each State that "opts-in" to the review process to seek sufficient funds from the program to create two-to-four full time (job) equivalents.

If you have questions about this proposal, feel free to contact me or call NARUC's General Counsel, J. Bradford Ramsay at 202.898.2207 or jramsay@naruc.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Moffet", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Michael C. Moffet, Commissioner

cc: J. Bradford Ramsay
General Counsel, National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners